

Message Text

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EUR - MR. CHRISTIANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICRC, PARM

SUBJECT: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS - MEETING OF PARIS GROUP

1. DURING RECENT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH
BRITISH AND CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING PREPARA-
TIONS FOR LUGANO GOVERNMENT EXPERTS CONFERENCE ON CON-
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VENTIONAL WEAPONS TO BE HELD IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1976, IT

WAS SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HOLD MEETING OF PARIS GROUP AGAIN IN EARLY FALL TO BEGIN COORDINATING WESTERN POSITIONS FOR LUGANO. THE DATES OF SEPTEMBER 10-12 ARE PREFERABLE FOR UK, CANADA AND U.S., AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE THREE GOVERNMENTS WOULD REQUEST THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO ARRANGE FOR THE CONVENING OF THE GROUP, PREFERABLY ON THOSE DATES. IT WAS PROPOSED THAT SEPTEMBER MEETING MIGHT FOCUS PRIMARILY ON MILITARY QUESTIONS, AND THAT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE GROUP TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR MIGHT FOCUS PRIMARILY ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, IT WAS AGREED THAT BOTH FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRY EXPERTS SHOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND BOTH MEETINGS.

2. FYI: SEPTEMBER 1975 MEETING OF PARIS GROUP SHOULD ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR DECISIONS WITHIN USG ON OUR APPROACH TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AT LUGANO, AND WE HOPE AT THAT TIME TO BE ABLE TO ADVANCE AT LEAST PRELIMINARY U.S. PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS DURING FALL. END FYI.

3. FOR PARIS: PLEASE CONTACT CHRISTIAN GIRARD (HEAD OF FRENCH DEL TO DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW), AND INFORM HIM THAT USG WOULD HOPE THAT FRENCH WOULD FIND IT CONVENIENT TO CONVENE PARIS GROUP MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 1 ABOVE. EMBASSY WILL RECALL THAT GROUP MET IN PARIS AT FRENCH INITIATIVE IN SEPTEMBER 1974, PRIOR TO LUCERNE SESSION OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS CONFERENCE, AND CONSISTED OF EC 9 PLUS U.S. AND CANADA. DURING LUCERNE SESSION, MEETINGS OF GROUP INCLUDED AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN, BUT GROUP WAS REDUCED TO ORIGINAL MEMBERS AT 1975 SESSION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW. YOU SHOULD TELL GIRARD THAT, ALTHOUGH JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA WERE NOT INCLUDED IN GROUP AT THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO INVOLVE THEM IN THE PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS, AND USG WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO INVITING THEM ALSO.

4. FOR OTTAWA AND LONDON: WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED MILLER OF CANADIAN EXTAFF LEGAL OFFICE BY TELEPHONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE. EMBASSY LONDON SHOULD LIKEWISE INFORM FREELAND OR EATON OF FCO LEGAL OFFICE. WE UNDERSTAND CANADA AND UK WILL APPROACH FRENCH INDEPENDENTLY WITH SAME PROPOSAL.

5. FOR OTER INFO ADDRESSEES: WE WILL LET FRENCH CONTACT REMAINING MEMBERS OF PARIS GROUP. YOU NEED TAKE NO ACTION EXCEPT, IF ASKED, TO CONFIRM USG PROPOSAL.

6. FOR CANBERRA: MCCARTHY OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY VISITED ALDRICH IN WASHINGTON ON JUNE 13 AND, DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION, EXPRESSED DESIRE ON AUSTRALIAN PART TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY WESTERN CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO LUGANO. ALDRICH SAID WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT AUSTRALIANS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN PARIS GROUP, BUT THAT WE WOULD SUGGEST IT. KISSINGER

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